

Patent Application No. 09/675,825
Docket No. NU-98-5-1

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims

1. (Three times amended) An acidified beverage with stabilized sweeteners and extended shelf life comprising:
 - (a) water;
 - (b) an edible acid component present in an amount suitable to maintain the pH of the beverage in the range of from about 3 up to less than about 6;
 - (c) at least one high intensity peptide sweetener; and
 - (d) a water-soluble oligosaccharide fiber which undergoes at least partial hydrolysis within about 4 weeks at ambient conditions within the aforesaid pH range and the hydrolyzed units of which sweeten said beverage; and which oligosaccharide is selected from the group consisting of inulins, oligofructose and fructans and
wherein the weight ratio of oligosaccharide to high intensity sweetener is 500:1 to 5,000:1.
2. (Original) The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein said acid component maintains the pH of the beverage in the range of from about 3 to about 3.5.
3. (Original) The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein said acid component maintains the pH of the beverage in the range of from about 3 to about 3.25.
4. (Original) The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein said acid component comprises phosphoric acid.

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5. (Amended)The beverage according to Claim 4, wherein said acid component further comprises citric acid.
6. (Original)The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein said acid component comprises citric acid.
7. (Original)The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein said acid component comprises malic acid.
8. (Original)The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein said oligosaccharide comprises hexose or pentose monosaccharide units.
9. (Amended)The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide is oligofructose.
10. (Amended)The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide is inulin.
11. (Amended)The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein said peptide sweetener is aspartame.
12. (Original)The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein the beverage contains both acesulfame K and aspartame.
13. (Amended)The beverage according to Claim ~~13~~12 wherein the ratio of aspartame to acesulfame K is from about 1:2 to about 10:1.
14. (Twice amended)An acidified beverage comprising:
(a) water;

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- (b) a flavor component selected from the group consisting of tea flavor and cola flavor;
 - (c) an edible acid component present in an amount suitable to maintain the pH of the beverage in the range of from about 3 to about 4;
 - (d) at least one high intensity sweetener composition;
 - (e) a water-soluble oligosaccharide fiber selected from the group consisting of inulins, oligofructose and fructans, said inulins, oligofructans and fructans having a caloric value of less than about 5 Kcal/g.
15. (Original)The beverage according to Claim 14, wherein said oligosaccharide is oligofructose.
16. (Amended)The beverage according to Claim 15, wherein said ~~peptide~~ high intensity sweetener composition is aspartame.
17. (Original)The beverage according to Claim 15, wherein said high intensity sweetener composition is acesulfame K.
18. (Original)The beverage according to Claim 15, wherein said high intensity sweetener composition is aspartame and acesulfame K.
19. (Original)The beverage according to Claim 18, wherein the weight ratio of aspartame to acesulfame K is from about 1:2 to about 10:1.
20. (Amended)The beverage according to Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble oligosaccharide fiber undergoes hydrolysis by about 0.5-50 per cent by weight of said oligosaccharide fiber within about four (4) weeks at ambient conditions within the pH range of 3 to 4 and the hydrolyzed units of which sweeten said beverage.